REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 7 and 11 will have been amended and new claim 13 will have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is believed to be appropriate and proper.

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Turning to the merits of the action, the Examiner rejects claims 7, 8, and 11 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,836,792 to CHEN in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,881,233 to TOYODA et al., and U.S. Patent No. 5,864,676 to BEER et al. Claims 9, 10, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0177757 to BRITTON in view of TOYODA and BEER et al.

As noted above, Applicants amend claims 7 and 11 and submit new claim 13 for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections based on pending claims 7-13, and will discuss the rejections with respect to the pending claims in the present application, as will be set forth hereinbelow. The amended claims clarify the subject matter recited in the rejected claims, but do not narrow the scope of the claims.

According to an embodiment of Applicants' invention, as defined by independent claim 7, a communication control apparatus comprises a first communicator configured to be connected to a network, and a second communicator configured to be connected to an Internet facsimile apparatus. The first communicator comprises a component of the communication control apparatus, and the second communicator comprises a component of the communication control apparatus. The Internet facsimile apparatus scans image data and transmits to a recipient, via the communication control apparatus, an e-mail to which the scanned image data is attached. The communication control apparatus further comprises a controller which receives from the Internet facsimile apparatus, via the second communicator, an e-mail address of the recipient according to a SMTP protocol, converts the received e-mail address of the recipient into URL data, receives, from the Internet facsimile apparatus via the second communicator, e-mail data directed to the recipient according to the SMTP protocol, converts the e-mail data into HTML data, and transmits to the recipient, via the first communicator, the converted HTML data, based on the URL data according to a HTTP protocol, subsequent to the conversion of the received e-mail data into the HTML data. Claim 11 recites a related method.

By the current amendment, Applicants amend the claims to include the feature of "subsequent to the conversion of the received e-mail data into the HTML data". Applicants submit that no prohibited new matter has been added. Referring to Fig.6 of Applicant's drawings, ADPT100A receives e-mail data from IFAX 101A (paragraph [0051], step ST606 in Fig.6). ADPT100A converts the e-mail data into HTML data and

transmits it to the recipient (ADPT100B), via the first communicator, the HTML data (paragraph [0054], step ST607 in Fig. 6) based on the URL data according to a HTTP protocol. This occurs subsequent to the conversion of the received e-mail data into the HTML data.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the features recited in the claims are supported by the specification.

As defined by independent claim 9, a communication control apparatus, comprises a first communicator connected to a network, and a second communicator connected to a receiving Internet facsimile apparatus. The receiving Internet facsimile apparatus receives, from a transmitter via the communication control apparatus, an e-mail to which image data is attached and prints the image data attached to the received e-mail. The communication control apparatus comprises a controller which receives, from the transmitter via the first communicator, URL data according to a HTTP protocol, converts the received URL data into an e-mail address of the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus, and receives, from the transmitter via the first communicator, HTML data according to the HTTP protocol. The controller converts the received HTML data into e-mail data, and transmits, to the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus via the second communicator, the converted e-mail data, based on the e-mail address according to a SMTP protocol. Claim 12 recites a related method.

With respect to the rejection of claims 7, 8, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants submit that CHEN relates to a method for providing add-on services

responsive to an e-mail transferred via a distributed computer network. In CHEN, e-mail sender 102 commands e-mail front end 108 to transmit an e-mail to an e-mail recipient 106, using a send command (see, for example, col. 1, lines 56-58). The transmitted e-mail is received at e-mail system 130 by an SMTP server 140 (see, for example, col. 2, lines 11-12). An HTML converter facility 158 included in the e-mail system 130 converts the e-mail message to an appropriate format (see, for example, col. 2, lines 30-36). E-mail recipient 106 sends a command to the e-mail system 130 via e-mail front end 150 to request the e-mail message from the e-mail system 130 (see, for example, col. 2, lines 22-30).

Applicants submit (and the Examiner acknowledged in paragraph 14 of the Official Action that was previously mailed on July 5, 2006) that CHEN does not disclose a controller which converts the e-mail address of the recipient into URL data. For at least this reason, Applicants submit that CHEN fails to disclose a controller that transmits HTML data to the recipient, based on URL data, as taught by the present invention.

Rather, as noted above, Applicants submit that in CHEN, e-mail recipient 106 sends a command to e-mail system 130 to retrieve the e-mail message from e-mail system 130 (see, for example, col. 2, lines 22-30). In other words, e-mail recipient 106 of CHEN utilizes a command to request the e-mail message from the e-mail system 130, but the HTML converter facility 158 does not utilize URL data to transmit the e-mail message to the e-mail recipient 106. Therefore, Applicants submit that CHEN fails to include any suggestion about transmitting, to the recipient via the first communicator, the

converted HTML data, based on URL data, subsequent to the conversion of the received e-mail data into the HTML data, in CHEN.

Applicants additionally submit that TOYODA fails to disclose that which is lacking in CHEN. TOYODA relates to an Internet facsimile apparatus. However, Applicants submit that TOYODA merely discloses the Internet facsimile apparatus itself. That is, TOYODA does not disclose at least a communication control apparatus which includes at least (1) a controller that converts the e-mail address of the recipient into URL data, and (2) a controller that transmits, to the recipient via the first communicator, the converted HTML data, based on URL data, subsequently to the conversion of the received e-mail data into the HTML data.

Thus, Applicants submit that even if one attempted to combine the teachings of CHEN and TOYODA in the manner suggested by the Examiner, one would fail to arrive at the instant invention, as defined by pending claims 7, 8, and 11, as such a combination would at least fail to provide (1) a controller that converts the e-mail address of the recipient into URL data, and (2) a controller that transmits, to the recipient via the first communicator, the converted HTML data, based on URL data, subsequent to the conversion of the received e-mail data into the HTML data.

Further, Applicants submit that BEER et al. also fail to disclose that which is lacking in CHEN and TOYODA. BEER et al. relates to a URL login system for fetching objects from various locations on a network, using a URL instead of a specific home directory. BEER et al. discloses a simple translation rule to compute a URL from an

e-mail address (see, for example, col. 4, lines 5-30). However, Applicants submit that BEER et al. does not contain (or suggest) any disclosure with respect to an Internet facsimile apparatus.

Applicants further submit that BEER et al. also does not disclose (or suggest) a controller which receives, from an Internet facsimile apparatus via a second communicator, an e-mail address of a recipient according to a SMTP protocol, since BEER et al. does not contain any disclosure with respect to a communication control apparatus connected to an Internet facsimile apparatus. Rather, BEER et al. teaches that a user enters, by hand, an e-mail address into a Login Manager 3, which runs on a user system 5. The Login Manager 3 determines a URL corresponding to the e-mail (see, for example, col. 3, lines 66-67 and col. 4, lines 1-2). On the other hand, Applicants submit that the communication control apparatus of Applicants' claimed invention is distinct from an Internet facsimile apparatus.

Further, BEER et al. does not disclose a controller which receives, from the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus via the second communicator, e-mail data directed to the recipient according to the SMTP protocol, converts the received e-mail data into HTML data, and transmits, to the recipient via the first communicator, HTML data, based on URL data according to a HTTP protocol, subsequent to the conversion of the received e-mail data into the HTML data, since BEER et al. does not contain any disclosure with respect to Applicants' claimed controller. Rather, in BEER et al., a user system 5 fetches, for example from server A, a login object referred by URL (see, for example, col.

4, lines 41-49 and Fig. 2 STEP 104). In other words, BEER et al. discloses that a user at the receiving side must take an affirmative action. On the other hand, the communication control apparatus of the presently claimed invention transmits to the recipient, via the first communicator, the converted HTML data, based on URL data, subsequent to the conversion of the received e-mail data into the HTML data.

Thus, Applicants submit that even if one attempted to combine the teachings of CHEN, TOYODA and BEER et al. in the manner suggested by the Examiner, one would fail to arrive at the instant invention, as defined by amended claims 7, 8, and 11, as such a combination would at least fail to provide a controller that transmits to the recipient, via the first communicator, the converted HTML data, based on URL data according to a HTTP protocol, subsequently to the conversion of the received e-mail data into the HTML data.

In this regard, the Examiner asserts in the Official Action mailed on November 29, 2006 that "one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references". Applicants submit that, if no teaching in any document applied in a rejection would disclose, suggest or render obvious one or more features recited in a rejected claim, than the claim is not properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In this case, Applicants submit that none of the documents applied in the rejection disclose, or suggest specified features of the claims, e.g., a controller that transmits, to the recipient via the first communicator, the converted HTML data, based on URL data, subsequent to the conversion of the received e-mail data into

the HTML data. Thus, Applicants submit that insofar as the specified features are not disclosed, suggested or rendered obvious by any document applied in the outstanding Official Action, such features would also inherently not result from the "combination" of applied documents, contrary to the Examiner's assertion.

Further, in setting forth the rejection, the Examiner asserts that Applicants' limitation of "transmitting to the recipient the converted HTML data when the received e-mail data is converted into HTML data" does not indicate a lack of an affirmative action by a user. By the present amendment, Applicants amend claim 7 to include the limitation of "subsequent to the conversion of the received e-mail data into the HTML data" in order to indicate a lack of an affirmative action by a user. As discussed above, Applicants submit that this feature is supported by the specification.

Furthermore, in setting forth the rejection, the Examiner asserts that "the converted URL may be sent as a request since the URL is an identifier of a resource on network, e.g. HTML, which would result in the retrieval of HTML data. In other words, the HTML is sent based on the URL". In this regard, Applicants submit that, in the pending claims, a communication control apparatus receives, from the Internet facsimile apparatus, an e-mail address of the recipient according to a SMTP protocol, converts the e-mail address of the recipient into URL data, and transmits, to the recipient, the converted HTML data, based on the URL data according to a HTTP protocol, subsequent to the conversion of the received e-mail data into the HTML data. Thus, Applicants submit that the URL data is obtained by converting the received e-mail address into the

URL data, but that, in the pending claim, the converted URL is not sent as a request. Therefore, Applicants submit that an additional reason exists for concluding that BEER et al. fails to disclose at least a controller that transmits to the recipient, via the first communicator, the converted HTML data, based on URL data according to a HTTP protocol, subsequently to the conversion of the received e-mail data into the HTML data.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the amended claims are not obvious in view of the applied art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claims 7, 8 and 11, and an indication of the allowability of claims 7, 8, and 11. Claims 7, 8, and 11 are submitted to be patentable over the Examiner's proposed combination, since the combination of CHEN, TOYODA, and BEER et al. does not disclose the combination of the features recited in Applicants' claims 7, 8, and 11.

Moreover, Applicants submit that the Examiner has not set forth a proper motivation for modifying CHEN and BEER et al. so as to transmit to the recipient the converted HTML data, based on URL data, subsequent to the conversion of the received e-mail data into the HTML data. In CHEN, e-mail recipient 106 accesses the e-mail message by sending a command to the e-mail system 130, and requests the e-mail message from e-mail system 130 (see, for example, col. 2, lines 21-30). In other words, in CHEN, e-mail recipient 106 at the receiving side sends a command to receive the e-mail message from the e-mail system 130. Similarly, in BEER et al., the user system 5 at the receiving side attempts to fetch login objects from a server takes action. Further,

BEER et al. merely discloses a simple translation rule to compute a URL from an e-mail address.

With respect to the rejection of claims 9, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants submit that BRITTON relates to a method and apparatus for facilitating an exchange of information associated with a patient's medical care.

However, as the Examiner previously admitted in paragraph 26 of Official Action mailed on July 5, 2006, BRITTON does not disclose at least receiving from the transmitter via the first communicator URL data according to a HTTP protocol, and converting the received URL data into an e-mail address of the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus.

Applicants additionally submit that TOYODA fails to disclose that which is lacking in BRITTON. As discussed above, TOYODA relates to an Internet facsimile apparatus. However, Applicants submit that TOYODA merely discloses an Internet facsimile apparatus itself. That is, Applicants submit that TOYODA does not disclose a communication control apparatus which includes at least a controller that receives, from the transmitter via the first communicator, URL data according to a HTTP protocol, or a controller that converts the received URL data into an e-mail address of the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus.

Thus, Applicants submit that even if one attempted to combine the teachings of BRITTON and TOYODA in the manner suggested by the Examiner, one would fail to arrive at the instant invention, as defined by pending claims 9, 10, and 12, as such a

combination would at least fail to provide a communication control apparatus which includes at least a controller that receives, from the transmitter via the first communicator, URL data according to a HTTP protocol, and/or a controller that converts the received URL data into an e-mail address of the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus.

Further, Applicants submit that BEER et al. fails to disclose that which is lacking in BRITTON and TOYODA. Applicants submit that BEER et al. does not disclose a second communicator which is connected to a receiving Internet facsimile apparatus, since BEER et al. does not contain any disclosure with respect to an Internet facsimile apparatus.

Further, Applicants submit that BEER et al. do not disclose a controller which receives, from the transmitter via the first communicator, URL data according to a HTTP protocol. Applicants submit that BEER et al. simply discloses that a user enters, by hand, an e-mail address into a Login Manager 3, which runs on a user system 5, and the Login Manager 3 determines a URL corresponding to the e-mail (see, for example, col. 3, lines 66-67 and col. 4, lines 1-2).

Applicants further submit that BEER et al. does not disclose a controller which converts HTML data into an e-mail address of the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus, but rather, merely teach computing a URL from an e-mail address (see, for example, col. 4, lines 5-9).

Thus, Applicants submit that even if one attempted to combine the teachings of BRITTON, TOYODA and BEER et al. in the manner suggested by the Examiner, one

would fail to arrive at the instant invention, as defined by amended claims 9, 10 and 12, as such a combination would at least fail to provide a communication control apparatus which includes a controller which receives, from the transmitter via the first communicator, URL data according to a HTTP protocol, and/or a controller which converts the received URL data into an e-mail address of the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus.

The Examiner asserts at paragraph 10 of the Office Action that features upon which Applicant relies (i.e. a controller which converts HTML data into an e-mail address of the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Applicants submit the Examiner is mistaken. In particular, Applicants submit that the features upon which Applicant relies (a controller which converts HTML data into an e-mail address of the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus) is recited in claim 9 at lines 7-11.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the amended claims are not obvious in view of the applied art of record, and respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection, along with an indication of allowability of claims 9, 10, and 12. Pending claims 9, 10, and 12 are also submitted to be patentable over the Examiner's proposed combination, since the combination of BRITTON, TOYODA, and BEER et al. fail to disclose the combination of the features recited in Applicant's claims 9, 10, and 12.

Applicants additionally submit that the Examiner has not set forth a proper motivation for combining BRITTON and BEER et al. so as to receive, from the

transmitter via the first communicator, URL data according to a HTTP protocol, and to convert the received URL data into an e-mail address of the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus. Applicants submit that BRITTON does not disclose or suggest receiving, from the transmitter via the first communicator, URL data according to a HTTP protocol, and converting the received URL data into an e-mail address of the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus. Similarly, Applicants submit that BEER et al. merely discloses a simple translation rule to compute a URL from an e-mail address.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections, and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application in due course.

Regarding newly submitted dependent claim 13, Applicants note that the limitations of "while performing preparatory operations for a mail transmission according to a SMTP protocol via the second communicator" and "when the preparatory operations for the mail transmission are completed" are supported by the original disclosure. As shown in the flowchart of Fig.6, ADPT 100B receives HTML data from ADPT 100A parallel to the preparatory operations for the e-mail, and converts the received HTML data into e-mail data (paragraph [0065], ST611 of Fig.6). When the preparatory operations for the e-mail are completed, ADPT 100B transmits, to the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus 101B via the second communicator, the converted e-mail data (paragraph [0067], ST614 of Fig.6) based on the e-mail address according to a SMTP protocol.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the features recited in claims 13 are supported by the specification, and respectfully request a favorable review by the Examiner.
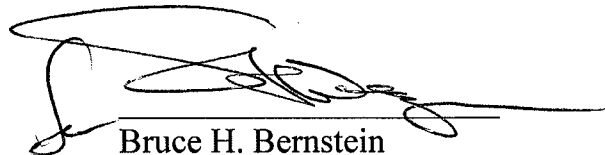
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have done so. Applicants have amended the rejected claims and have submitted a new claim for consideration by the Examiner. With respect to the pending claims, Applicants have pointed out the features thereof and have contrasted the features of the new claims with the disclosures of the references. Accordingly, Applicants have provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all claims in the present application and respectfully requests an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application in due course.

The amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Akimoto MASAO et al.

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438

February 28, 2007
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191